



*View above a livestock dam that will be breached
in the Murphy Creek project.*

Purpose

This project improves fish passage for salmonids and restores ecosystem processes, along with aquatic and terrestrial habitats in the Murphy Creek Watershed.

Project Goals

- Restore rearing and/or spawning habitat for Chinook salmon and steelhead.
- Restore native riparian vegetation to encourage the reestablishment of neotropical migratory birds and other special-status wildlife species.
- Improve water quality and improve water flows within the creek.
- Promote sustainable agricultural practices that continue to support livestock and vineyard production within the watershed.

Award Amount
\$282,500

Watershed
Murphy Creek Watershed

County
San Joaquin and Amador Counties

CALFED Region
Delta Region

Legislative Districts
US Congress: 11
State Assembly: 26
State Senate: 14

Benefits to the CALFED Program

Benefits of this project include greater collaboration and coordination between landowners and agencies. Improved coordination is leading to better management of the Murphy Creek Watershed and lower Mokelumne River Watershed. This project contributes directly to CALFED Program goals, including recovery of at-risk species through restoration of rearing and spawning habitat for salmonids, rehabilitation of ecosystem processes by restoring in-channel flow, gravel recruitment to the Mokelumne River, and restoration of native riparian vegetation. This project restores a free-flowing stream and improves water quality by controlling erosion and improving the riparian environment. These actions provide direct benefits to the Murphy Creek Watershed, the Mokelumne River, and the Bay-Delta system.

Project Overview

Murphy Creek is a 5-mile-long tributary of the Mokelumne River that traverses Amador and San Joaquin Counties, entering the Mokelumne River immediately below the Camanche Dam. The Murphy Creek Watershed encompasses approximately 3,100 acres and forms the northernmost boundary of the lower Mokelumne River Watershed. The Mokelumne River is an important tributary of the Bay-Delta System and provides valuable habitat for Chinook salmon and steelhead. Restoration of Murphy Creek will provide the opportunity for landowners, agencies, and other interested parties to implement elements of the Lower Mokelumne River Watershed Stewardship Plan, developed in 2002. Implementation activities include measures to:

- remove barriers to fish passage,
- increase canopy cover to improve habitat for coldwater fish species,
- remove nonnative plant species and replace with native vegetation,
- reduce livestock access to riparian zones,
- repair minor erosion/bank instability to reduce creek sedimentation, and
- promote sustainable agriculture within the watershed through the use of best management practices.

Expected outcomes of the project are the restoration of historical salmon and steelhead spawning and rearing habitat in Murphy Creek with an associated increase in populations of neotropical migratory birds and other special-status species through the maintenance of sustainable agricultural practices, increased water flows, and improved water quality.



A portion of Murphy Creek located below a dam and in need of riparian restoration and removal of invasive plant growth.

Contact Information

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